

## Appendix E Glossary of Technical Terms

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This appendix briefly explains the technical terms and names used in this EA/IS. A list of acronyms appears directly before Chapter 1.

Best Management Practice (BMP)	Any program, technology, process, operating method, measure or device that controls, prevents, removes or reduces pollution.
Basin Plan	A specific plan for control of water quality within one of the nine hydrologic basins of the State under the regulation of a Water Quality Control Board.
Cooperating Agency	An agency, other than the lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or other expertise, that is formally involved in a proposed project.
Corridor	A strip of land between two termini within which traffic, topography, environment, and other characteristics are evaluated for transportation purposes.
Cumulative effects	Project effects that are related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.
Decibel	A numerical expression of the relative loudness of a sound.
Encroachment (floodplain)	An action within the limits of the 100-year floodplain.
Endangered	Plant or animal species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Erosion	The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.
Federal Register	A Federal publication that provides official notice of Federal administrative hearings and issuance of proposed and final Federal administrative rules and regulations.
Floodplain (100-year)	The area subject to flooding by a flood or tide that has a 1 percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Effect, issued by FHWA upon approval of the NEPA review process

Freeway	A divided arterial highway with full control of access and with grade separations at intersections.
Habitat	The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.
Hectare	A unit of surface measure in the metric system, equal to 10,000 square meters.
Initial Study (IS)	Environmental review document prepared to comply with CEQA
Initial Site Assessment (ISA)	A Caltrans term for an initial study to determine hazardous waste issues on a project.
$L_{eq}$	A unit used for evaluation of sound impacts, $L_{eq}$ is the measurement of the fluctuating sound level received by a receptor averaged over a time interval (usually 1 hour).
Level of Service (LOS)	A measurement of capacity of a roadway.
Median	The area of a divided highway that separates the traveled way for traffic in opposite directions.
Mitigation	Compensation for an impact by replacement or provision of substitute resources or environments. Mitigation can include avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action, minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of an action, or rectifying an impact by repairing or restoring the affected environment.
Negative Declaration (ND)	Issued upon approval of the environmental review process under CEQA
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. A permit regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board that is required if more than 0.4 ha (1 acre) of original ground is graded. One condition of this permit is that the contractor must submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which is similar to the Water Pollution Control Plan required by Caltrans' Standard Specification 7-1.01G.
Practicable	An action that is capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

Receptors	Term used in air quality and noise studies that refers to houses or businesses that could be affected by a project.
Regulatory agency	An agency that has jurisdiction by law.
Responsible agency	A public agency other than the Lead Agency that has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project under CEQA.
Right-of-way	A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.
Riparian	Pertaining to the banks and other adjacent terrestrial (as opposed to aquatic) environs of freshwater bodies, watercourses, estuaries, and surface-emergent aquifers, whose transported freshwater provides soil moisture sufficient in excess of that available through local precipitation to potentially support the growth of vegetation.
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan, prepared by the regional agency responsible for transportation planning and funding. In Contra Costa County, the RTP is prepared by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to identify transportation improvement priorities.
Special-status species	Plant or animal species that are either (1) federally listed, proposed for or a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered; (2) bird species protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act; (3) protected under state endangered species laws and regulations, plant protection laws and regulations, Fish and Game codes, or species of special concern listings and policies; (4) recognized by national, state, or local environmental organizations (e.g., California Native Plant Society).
STIP	The State Transportation Improvement Program, updated every 2 years, is the California Transportation Commission's priorities for improvements on and off the state highway system.
SWPPP	A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is prepared to evaluate sources of discharges and activities that may affect storm water runoff, and implement measures or practices to reduce or prevent such discharges.

Threatened	A species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection.
Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)	Tanks that typically store fuel or liquid chemicals underground.
Waters of the United States	<p>As defined by the USACE in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 328.3(a):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All waters that are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;</li><li>2. All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;</li><li>3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce, including any such waters:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or</li><li>(ii) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or</li><li>(iii) Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;</li></ol></li><li>4. All impoundment of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;</li><li>5. Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs 1-4;</li><li>6. The territorial seas;</li><li>7. Wetlands adjacent to waters (waters that are not wetlands themselves) identified in paragraphs 1-6.</li></ol>

Wetlands

When used in a formal context, such as in this IS/EA, wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances will support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas [33 CFR 328.3(b)].

